

who come here owe this Nation an obligation to understand that. They need to learn what freedom is and how we go about keeping it, and a big part of that is following the law.

Solving the problems of illegals and the crisis they have created will not be an easy task before us. There are those who want amnesty and who support policies that promote more illegal entry and lawlessness. These are unacceptable in a post-9/11 world. We can start by enforcing the law and showing we are serious about it. We also need to eliminate policies in this country that encourage and ignore illegal entry.

Such policies include easy access to jobs with little enforcement on employers who knowingly hire illegals; free health care and free education; policies that don't promote assimilation; and the inability of local law enforcement to assist Federal immigration authorities.

We need to upgrade interior enforcement of immigration laws. Many people come here legally, then they never go home, because this Nation doesn't do much about visa overstays. Border security is a national security issue. We just witnessed recently a Jordanian national who came here legally, who overstayed his visa and then tried to blow up a Dallas skyscraper. Thanks to the work of law enforcement, this bombing plot was averted.

We owe an obligation to the future of this Nation to guard and secure our borders, to permit entry of only people who will benefit our Nation and to keep up with those who enter as guests of our country. It is not too much to require that people legally enter the United States or don't come at all.

And that's just the way it is.

A TALE OF TWO COUNTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the announcement today that JPMorgan Chase, the largest bank in our country, turned a \$3.6 billion profit in the most recent quarter brings to mind Charles Dickens' 19th-century English masterpiece, "A Tale of Two Cities," except this is the United States, and it's the 21st century, and it's a tale not of two cities but of two countries.

There is one country where giant banks are making so much money that they are setting aside enough to pay each worker in their investment banking divisions \$353,834. That country is Wall Street. The other country is where I come from—Toledo, Ohio—and places like it across the Nation where the majority of the American people live. Toledo, Ohio, where the median household annual income is not even one-tenth of that amount—it's \$35,216. It's not even one-tenth as much as JPMorgan Chase is setting aside for bonuses for its investment banking employees.

In one country, banks that are too big to fail privatize their profits. They're taking more, but they socialize their losses, putting their trillion-dollar mistakes on the backs of the American taxpayers. In the other country, which I represent, families that are too small to matter lose their jobs to globalization, and they lose their homes to foreclosure. These same banks finance the outsourcing of their jobs, and they restrict credit to Main Street businesses across our country.

In one country, financial commentators cheer as the Dow Jones Industrial Average goes over 10,000. In the other country, where I live, the unemployment rate is rising, exceeding 13 percent. While housing values fall more than 10 percent in a single year and foreclosures are going up 94 percent, JPMorgan Chase is the top forecloser in the Ninth Congressional District of Ohio, and they don't even show up for meetings with the people being affected. There is something wrong with this picture. There is something really wrong with our country, and there is something really wrong with our economy.

Even one of the Wall Street analysts picked it up today in his comments to the Associated Press, saying, "Wall Street is picking up quite smartly, while Main Street continues to suffer."

How can that be? How can the stock market be so oblivious to the pain that American families are feeling? Granted, a rising stock market might help 401(k)s and pension plans and individual portfolios, but not everybody is celebrating. In fact, the majority isn't. Furthermore, how can this stock market rally last when national unemployment is close to 10 percent and, in some regions, far above that? How can the bullish sentiment override the reality in the other America where unemployment and foreclosures have turned the American dream into a nightmare for so many people—for so many millions and millions of our fellow citizens?

Perhaps congratulations are in order to JPMorgan on its quarterly report. I would only ask Chase and the other banks to remember who came to their rescue, because the people who bailed them out, the people in the other America—beyond Wall Street, those people—are still really hurting. The communities that they live in are really hurting. Our food banks are up 53 percent in requests, and donations are down 13 percent. This economic depression is widening across this country, but there are some folks in that other country who don't seem to care at all.

EXTEND THE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER TAX CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, like many parts of the country, the

Kansas housing market has struggled along with our Nation's economy. One important tool that has strengthened the housing market and has limited the economic decline has been the \$8,000 first-time homebuyer tax credit. However, unless Congress takes immediate action, this valuable credit will expire on November 30.

I come here with a message for my colleagues and the leaders of the House of Representatives: Congress must act quickly to renew the first-time homebuyer tax credit.

A Realtor from Manhattan, Kansas, wrote me about the importance of the homebuyer tax credit. She noted that the credit had been extremely helpful to the Kansas economy. She says: During these challenging economic times, the first-time homebuyer tax credit has injected new life into the housing market and has helped stimulate many local economies through the stabilization of housing prices.

However, our housing market remains fragile, and more progress is needed to further stabilize our communities. The homebuyer tax credit works. Since its enactment in February, the IRS has reported more than 1.4 million taxpayers have claimed the homebuyer credit. This incentive will lead 400,000 prospective first-time homebuyers to purchase homes who probably would not have without the help of the tax credit.

Moreover, it's estimated that each sale generates \$63,000 in additional goods and services that benefit the economy. There are tax savings for taxpayers which generate more revenue than the aggregate amount of the original tax cut. Along with falling home prices, the homebuyer credit has helped put the housing market on the track to recovery.

While market conditions have improved, as the Realtor says, the market remains fragile. The housing tax credit needs to be extended to make sure that the economic gains that have been made are not lost.

In order to build on that economic progress, the tax credit should be expanded. I've introduced H.R. 2905, the Homebuyer Tax Credit Expansion Act of 2009, which would extend the \$8,000 tax credit beyond its November 30 expiration. In addition, this legislation would expand the tax credit to all homebuyers, not just to first-time buyers.

I've asked the Speaker of the House and the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee to bring this bill or similar legislation to the floor for a vote. At the very least, Congress should pass a 1-year extension of the credit before it expires. It can take several months to go from contract to closing, and the tax credit will soon become unavailable for many buyers well before the November 30 expiration date. An extension must be passed soon if homebuyers are going to continue to take advantage of the tax credit.

Homeownership and the knowledge that one has equity in one's home can

significantly improve our economy. We should not allow this important tax credit to expire. Congress must act quickly now to renew the first-time homebuyer tax credit.

WE ARE OUR BROTHERS' AND SISTERS' KEEPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your kindness and generosity.

I rise today for a number of thank yous and acknowledgments.

First of all, I think it is very important to acknowledge, when tragedy occurs, how important it is that this country, as it has often done, rallies around those around the world to help them in their time of need.

I want to pay tribute to one of our colleagues—to the delegate from American Samoa, Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA—who has in the last couple of weeks been subjected to terrible tragedies at home, for on September 29, 2009, American Samoa and other areas in the surrounding areas were impacted by an 8.3 earthquake, 8.3 on the Richter scale, which was recognized as the world's largest earthquake of 2009. Out of that earthquake came a terrible tsunami, one that struck American Samoa, Samoa and neighboring Tonga, sweeping people and cars out to sea as survivors fled to high ground.

We remember the tsunami of some years ago that impacted Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India in parts. I traveled to Sri Lanka, and realized that the devastation was enormous. So, when there was a tsunami with waves that reached up to 20 feet in height and that penetrated 1 mile inland, we knew how devastating that had to be. It caused death and destruction of a nearly unprecedented amount. The death toll as of October 7 is estimated at 32 in American Samoa and 135 in the independent state of Samoa.

Many individuals and families have suffered and are impacted, now lacking basic survival necessities, and they remain at risk of additional death due to the shortage of clean water and of adequate shelter and food. My colleague who represents the area has been working without ceasing, but the deep human disaster is evident.

So I rise today to thank the 300 responders from FEMA; the American Red Cross; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Department of Health and Human Services; and from other Federal agencies which rushed forward to help our fellow world citizens: The United States Navy; the United States Coast Guard; the Hawaii Air and National Guard; the U.S. Army Reserve; American Samoa under the leadership of Admiral Timothy J. Keating, commander of the U.S. Pacific Command; many, many others; and the foreign governments who came to their aid.

So it is important that we recognize that we are, in fact, our brothers' and sisters' keeper, and we thank those who have already come forward, but we look forward in this Congress to continue to work, as we have worked before, to ensure that they are re-stabilized. We must recognize the humanitarian response that is currently underway. We are, in essence, commending them, but it is important that we continue to encourage donors and other relief agencies to work with these vulnerable organizations in stricken areas because we know, having experience in the United States with the fires in California, with the floods in the Midwest, and with the terrible hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana and Texas, and we understand disaster. We are grateful for those who have helped, but we want and we need continued help.

We commend the over 100,000 Samoan residents in the United States from American Samoa and Samoa for coming to the aid of their fellow brothers and sisters. It is important for this Congress to not only pay tribute but to recognize that people are still hurting.

Let me end this by again thanking our American Representative—our delegate from American Samoa—and by thanking him for his strength.

Just for a moment, Mr. Speaker, I turn very briefly to join with my colleague who spoke earlier, Congresswoman KAPTUR, to say this point: Americans are still suffering. Foreclosures are still happening. Small businesses are still not getting access to capital. I beseech those who have received the larger part of the bailout because it was necessary to restore capital markets in a capitalistic system. None of us adhere to socialism, but we do adhere to helping ourselves and helping our brothers and sisters across America.

It is crucial for the banks of America to lend to Americans—to taxpayers, to homeowners, to business owners. Let them expand. Let them add new employees. Let them keep their homes. The tight credit market is choking us. It is killing hardworking Americans who, as I said, are the beneficiaries but yet the benefactors of those who are in need around the world, and it is important for our banks to listen. They were bailed out. They'd better listen to the American people.

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IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM MUST BE STOPPED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I appreciated what my colleague just said about the banks, and one of the things that I think we ought to focus on in addition to that is that we are not energy independent and we're not allowed the

drill off the Continental Shelf or in the ANWR in Alaska or do other exploration for a number of reasons, not the least of which is, quote-unquote, environmental.

But at the same time we won't allow offshore drilling here, we just gave Brazil \$2 billion so they can drill off their shores. It just doesn't make any sense to me. We ought to be spending that money here at home exploring for oil so we can move towards energy independence. We have a 400- or 500-year supply of natural gas and we have plenty of oil if we just could go get it, and we can do it in an environmentally safe way.

Now the reason I bring that up is because one of the big problems we face is we get 35 to 40 percent of our oil from the Middle East, and one of the big problems facing the United States and the world right now is Iran. Iran has been developing a nuclear program, a nuclear weapons program for some time, and our position in the United States now, under the new administration, is to try to work with them, to talk with them to stop them with their nuclear development program. And if they don't, we're going to try to get a sanctions bill passed.

Now, we have a bill sponsored by the chairman of the International Relations Committee, Mr. BERMAN, that has over 300 cosponsors—I happen to be one of them—and we believe we ought to bring that bill to the floor as quickly as possible to try to put pressure on Iran to stop the development of the nuclear weapons program.

But the administration, I think, has suggested we should wait. They were trying to bring China and Russia on board, and China and Russia are not going to be on board. So we should do it by ourselves and we should do it expeditiously.

Let me tell you why I think it's so important. If Iran continues down this path, Israel—whom Iran has said they want to destroy—will have no choice but to defend itself. They cannot let Iran develop a nuclear bomb and a delivery system. If they do that, they will be able to destroy Israel and millions of Jews in Israel in a very short period of time. It will be another Holocaust.

So what will happen? If they get too far down the path, if we don't put pressure on them to stop—and they don't stop—I believe Israel will have no choice but to attack Iran. And if they attack Iran, that could end up in being a major conflagration in the entire Persian Gulf area.

Now, why is that important to us? We get 35 to 40 percent of our energy from the Persian Gulf area. If that goes up in smoke, we will lose 35 to 40 percent of the energy that we have in this country because we're not energy independent.

The lights that we have, the gasoline in our cars, the fuel we use to heat our houses, everything that needs energy will suffer, and we will have severe economic problems if this problem isn't